

Remarks

Claims 1-9, 11-12 and 14-17 are pending in the application. Claims 10 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 14-17 have been added. Claims 1, 9 and 14-17 are independent. Reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with thanks the withdrawal of the prior 103(a) rejections based on Krane, Fung, Sparks, Akatsu and Osder.

In the Office action dated January 13, 2005, Claims 1-8 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The issues raised as to independent Claim 1 are believed to be addressed in the proposed claim amendments, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection are respectfully requested.

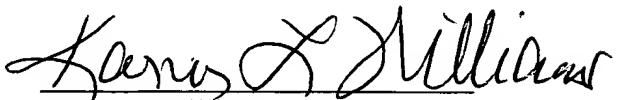
Claims 1-9 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,493,606 (Osder et al.) in view of US Patent 5,805,676 (Martino).

Each of independent Claims 1 and 9 has been amended to include an allowable limitation of now canceled Claims 10 and 13, respectively. Newly-submitted independent Claims 14-17 also include allowable limitations originally previously presented in dependent Claims 10 and 13.

In view of the foregoing amendments, the rejection is believed to be rendered moot and is therefore traversed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1-9, 11-12 and 14-17 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that the case, in its present form, is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an early and favorable response from the Examiner in that regard. If for some reason or other the Examiner does not agree that the case is ready to issue and that an interview or telephone conversation would further the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Karin L. Williams
Registration No. 36,721